

## Project Change Request Form

Severity: [HIGH]

**Project name:**

Review of All RPMs PDP Working Group

**Requested by:**

**Date:**

Brian Beckham, Phil Corwin, Kathryn Kleiman  
(WG Co-Chairs);  
John McElwaine (GNSO Council Liaison to the  
WG)

14 September 2020

**Change description:**

The 9th and most recent (September 2020) work plan/timeline since the inception (March 2016) of this PDP forecast as a **best-case scenario**, submission of the Phase I Final Report to the GNSO Council in mid-October. The WG has determined that this is not likely to be feasible.

The WG is requesting approval of a revised 10th work plan/timeline that projects submitting the Phase I Final Report by the end of November 2020 (a 40-day extension).

**Change reason:**

**1. Extended Public Comment Period; Extensive Public Comments**

The Initial Report was published for public comment on March 18, 2020 for 40 days, but given the global Covid-19 pandemic, was extended by one week. Subsequently, in the GNSO Council Projects List, although the health of the project had been marked as “On-Target”, the deadline for the review of public comment input and subsequent milestones, including delivery to the GNSO Council of the Final Report, were marked as red due to (a) the extension of the public comment period and (b) extensive public comments received which – despite committing to a twice-weekly hour and a half (1.5 hours) call schedule, plus conducting extensive work in sub teams – have required significant time to review and consider. These have necessitated a change in the status to “Target Will Be Missed” and the health of the project to “In-Trouble”.

### Impact of change (complete for relevant categories):

- **Scope:** The Scope of Phase I of the RPMs PDP has not changed.
- **Budget:** There will not be a direct impact to the budget; however, while the end of November delivery date of a Final Report is more realistic than the previous target, minimal slack remains and the WG leadership team will have to agree on an appropriate methodology and decision-making process in order to meet the new date.
- **Timeline:** Additional 40-day delay to baseline delivery date from the 9th work plan.
- **Resourcing:** Additional WG member and GNSO Policy Staff time commitment. The WG's working method (owing in no small part to malformed "charter questions") has contributed to volunteer fatigue with only a small subset of active members doing the regular work; moreover, some members refuse to concede or compromise on key issues, and the Co-Chairs having sought to manage the WG by unanimity whenever possible (as opposed to majority/consensus) has further complicated these and other aspects of the work. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the WG has initiated its review of the Final Report as the last step prior to engaging in the consensus call.
- **Communications:** Council leadership and the full Council were notified on September 14, 2020.
- **Other:** The Council may need to consider the impact on potential new work to be launched in 2020. In addition, the Council should consider how to charter Phase II of the RPMs PDP to produce better and more timely results.

### Proposed action:

The WG Co-Chairs will adjust the project plan and work plan with a new and more realistic target delivery date of the end of November 2020 for submission of the Phase I Final Report.

The WG Co-Chairs (1) commit to work together (**practically, this may mean continuing to allow a decision to be made by two of the three as opposed to all three Co-Chairs**), with the common goal to complete Phase I on time, understanding that there may be consequences for the work (e.g., suspension of the PDP, resignation of one or more co-chair(s), suspension of ICANN Staff support) if this is not done; and (2) are willing to be firm with the WG, and undertake necessary steps to deliver the Final Report in a timely manner; and (3) will work with ICANN support Staff to develop a detailed plan to produce the Final Report, and clearly communicate this process to WG members.

Working Group co-chairs hereby submit a Project Change Request that reflects a more realistic proposed timeline for submission of the Final Report on Phase One to the GNSO Council. The timeline takes into account a further increased workload on staff, the co-chairs, and the WG members.

Working Group co-chairs will invite the GNSO Council leadership to address the Working Group at the group's first ICANN69 session, to stress the need to complete Phase One according to the agreed timeline.

**Estimated Associated cost, if applicable:**

Direct cost impacts cannot be calculated at this time (being the second formal Project Change Request of its kind).

If a total burden rate is calculated in the future as part of PDP3.0 efforts, it can perhaps be backward-calculated to account for this 40-day extension.

**Outcome of the request (to be completed AFTER the GNSO Council completes its deliberation on the request):**